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June 3, 2003

Jiel Welp

6-3-03

DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : David A. Grilli et al.
Serial No. : 09/933,534
Filing Date : August 20, 2001
For : THERMOPLASTIC POLYOLEFIN ELASTOMER STEERING WHEEL
Group Art Unit : 3682
Examiner : Justin Stefanon
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(AP)5727

Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 3, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

(Amended) 29. A method of manufacturing a steering wheel, said method comprising the steps of:

mixing a thermoplastic polyolefin elastomer and a foaming agent;
heating the mixture of said thermoplastic polyolefin elastomer and said foaming agent to a temperature above the melting temperature of said thermoplastic polyolefin elastomer;

foaming said melted thermoplastic polyolefin elastomer with said foaming agent;

providing a mold having a first wall portion and a second wall portion, said first wall portion defining a first cavity in which a rim portion of a steering wheel armature is disposed, said second wall portion defining a second cavity in which a spoke portion and said steering wheel armature is disposed;